

The committee recommends that states and communities consider such methods of reducing waste quantities, but only as part of an integrated environmental management program with monitoring requirements, discharge or emission limits, and ambient environmental quality standards for both ground water and air resources that use comparable concepts of risk assessment.

Some of the ground water protection programs examined by the committee prohibit the land disposal of hazardous wastes. Many prohibit the underground injection of hazardous wastes. Many of the states reviewed also acknowledged other approved methods for hazardous waste management and treatment. These prohibitions and shortcomings usually resulted in exportation of hazardous wastes to other states allowing for their treatment or disposal. Therefore, the committee recommends that, as an essential element of each state's ground water protection program, a plan should be developed for treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous waste within its boundaries. A program for waste minimization should be a key element in the plan. Such a program should also include a siting process for transportation, storage, and disposal facilities, including regional and on-site industrial incinerators. Exportation of hazardous waste, a temporary expedient that generally increases risks associated with transportation and decreases the assured overall level of environmental protection, should be considered or continued only in special circumstances. The federal government should have a role in mediating this decision in case arbitration is needed. One of the unique approaches to cleanup and control of hazardous wastes is New Jersey's Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act of 1983 (ECRA), which places responsibility for cleanup on industry before sale of property to a new owner. This type of legislation could provide an effective prevention incentive as well as remedial pollution control program. States should consider adoption of programs comparable to the New Jersey Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act (ECRA) program with broad application to provide incentives for good housekeeping by individual industrial firms, and other significant potential polluting activities.

Underground Storage Tanks

Many local programs such as those in Long Island, New York; Dade County, Florida; and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and some states, have regulatory management programs for underground storage tanks containing hazardous materials and petroleum products. The committee believes that these programs are effective in reducing ground water contamination from these sources.

